

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS UR CASC

SUBJ: EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION: REPATRIATION OF US CITIZENS

1. MORE THAN TWO MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE CHARGE ON MAY 16 PRESENTED FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION LIST XV AND SEPARATE LIST OF FIVE AMERICAN CITIZENS LONG DENIED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION. TO DATE, OF FIVE CITIZENS ONLY OP BNUGGHAERIAN, HAS RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION. (MOSCOW 8059). APPLICATIONS OF TWO OTHERS, MANOOGIAN AND VARAV, ARE PENDING, AND APPLICATIONS OF OZOLINS AND PETRUSEVICIENE HAVE BEEN REFUSED, ON JULY 16 AND JUNE 14 RESPECTIVELY (MOSCOW 9068 AND 7077).

2. OZOLINS VISITED EMBASSY AUGUST 2 AND SHED LITTLE ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON "INDFINITE REFUSAL" BY RIGA OVIR JULY 16. OZOLINS SAID OVIR CHIEF SIMPLY TOLD HIM HE WAS REFUSED "UNTIL OVIR GOT FURTHER INFORMATION." OZOLINS SAID THAT OVIR CHIEF ONLY LAUGHED WHEN OZOLINS REPLIED OVIR ALREADY HAD ENOUGH INFORMATION, AND THAT HE REFUSED TO INDICATE WHAT INFORMATION WAS NECESSARY. AT CONCLUSION OF AUGUST 2 CONVERSATION OZOLINS BEGGED CONSOFF TO ENCOURAGE HIS SON TO SEEK US PUBLICITY ON HIS CASE.

3. IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES WITH FOUR OF ABOVE-CITED FIVE CASES I INTEND TO RETURN TO ISSUE AT EARLIEST APPROPRIATE
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OCCASION. I INTEND TO SPECIFY STATUS OF EACH OF FIVE CASES,

AND INDICATE THAT RESOLUTION OF ONLY ONE CASSE DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF THE USG, WHICH I TRUST IS SHARED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, OF RESOLVING SUCH CASES IN A HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT. I WILL CALL ON SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW EACH OF THESE CITIZENS, WHITH THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN WHERE APPLICABLE, TO RETURN TO THEIR FAMILIES. ONLY SUCH OUTCOME WOULD BE HUMANITARIAN AND JUST, AND CONSISTENT WITH IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

4. I WILL ALSO INTERVENE AT THIS TIME ON BEHALF OF TWO OTHER LONG-STANDING CASES ON REP LIST XV CONSIDERED BY USG TO BE AMERICAN CITIZENS- NICHOLAS BENKO (UKRAINE) AND ELEANOR IECHEPENE (LITHUANIA), AND I WILL CITE OUR CONCERN OVER LACK OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON LIST AS A WHOLE. (AS OF AUGUST 6, ONLY 23 OF 221 INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY UNITS ON REVISED REP LIST XV PRESENTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL JUNE 8 HAVE RECEIVED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION.)
EXEMPT
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